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PECHIPOGO STRIGILATA L. (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE), THE NOT-SO-COMMON FAN-FOOT — Mr Elliott (*Ent. Rec.* **95**: 238-241) drew attention to the fact that the so-called common fan-foot, *Pechipogo strigilata* L., can no longer be regarded as a common moth, and commented specifically on a lack of recent records from Wiltshire where de Worms (1962, *The macrolepidoptera of Wiltshire*) had described it as "fairly common". Skinner (1984, *Moths of the British Isles*) states that in recent years the species has rarely been seen outside north Hampshire, east Sussex and south-east Kent. In view of these observations, the following recent records may be of interest.

In June 1983 I captured several specimens of *P. strigilata* in light traps in Bentley Wood, south Wiltshire. The specimens were confirmed by the late Roy Pitman. Subsequently I encountered the species in Bernwood Forest on the Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire border. I worked the Forest for three years from 1984 to 1986 and the species turned up each year. I exhibited a specimen from the Bernwood collection at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological and Natural History Society in October 1986. Small unplanted areas consisting of native trees and shrubs survive amongst the conifer plantations in the Oakley Wood (Bucks) and Waterperry Wood (Oxon) parts of the Forest. The common fan-foot was strongly associated with these unplanted areas and within them it was a regular visitor both to Heath and Robinson light traps. The moth was never numerous; the most I had in one night was nine in a Robinson trap operated on 23 June 1985 amongst oak, birch and aspen trees with a hazel understorey. On the same night only one specimen came to a similar trap placed in an adjacent ride. A similar pattern was obtained in 1984 with Heath traps when no individuals were ever taken in the ride but three separate individuals were taken at a Heath trap placed amongst the trees (on 6, 13 and 20 June). The same was true in Waterperry Wood when rides and woodland blocks were trapped simultaneously. This observation is reminiscent of Elliot and Skinner's experiences with the closely related *Herminia tarsicrinalis* (*Ent. Rec.* **96**: 144-146) in which they described how the moth was captured most successfully by placing light traps within thickets.

Recently, I returned to Wiltshire and in Langley Wood, on 8.vi.1987, with David Sheppard, disturbed a fresh male *strigilata* amongst tall alders surrounded by oak, deep within the wood.

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NOTE: This species is well established in the Wyre Forest, Worcs, Shropshire. B.S.